



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/988,161	11/19/2001	Ko Kambayashi	122.1274C	8262

21171 7590 07/31/2002

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
700 11TH STREET, NW
SUITE 500
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2839

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/988,161

Applicant(s)

KAMBAYASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herron et al. (5,030,128) in view of Raczynski (5,098,312).

Regarding claims 1, 3 and 7, Herron et al., figures 3 and 32-33, disclose a detachable connector unit (18) for an electronic apparatus (12) comprising:

- a housing having front and rear surfaces and a height no greater than a thickness of the electronic apparatus,
- a plurality of first connectors (figure 33) accessible at the rear surface of the housing and detachably to respective peripheral unit,
- a second connector (figure 32) mounted on the front surface of the housing and detachable connectable to a third connector (figure 3) mounted on a rear surface of the electronic apparatus. The second connector aligned with the third connector and moving the housing in a direction toward the rear surface of the electronic housing.

Herron et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for a fastener unit.

Art Unit: 2839

Raczynski, figure 2, discloses an equipment connector having retraction means (86) read as a fastener unit. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made Herron et al. to have the retraction means as taught by Raczynski, in order to prevent overtorquing of the male elements within the housing (Raczynski, column 2, lines 55-60).

Regarding claims 2 and 4, it is noted that Raczynski discloses the fastener unit comprises a threaded shaft (92) for connecting the housing to the electronic apparatus. The threaded shaft projecting outwardly from a frontal surface of the detachable connector unit.

Regarding claim 5, it is noted that Raczynski discloses the fastener unit further comprises a fastener housing connected to the connector unit. The fastener housing having an interior and a coil spring (88) within the interior urging the threaded shaft outwardly from the frontal surface of the detachable connector unit.

Regarding claims 6 and 8, it is noted that Raczynski, figure 2, discloses first and second the fastener units respectively mounted at first and second opposite end walls of the detachable connector unit.

Regarding claim 9, it is noted that Raczynski discloses the fastening shaft has a screw thread on at least a first portion thereof projecting from the front surface of the housing and an integral second portion extending into the fastener unit. The fastening unit receives the second portion of the fastening shaft, resiliently biasing same to normally project from the front surface of the housing and to be retracted within a limited extent of axial movement of the fastening shaft.

Regarding claim 10, it is noted that Rzczynski, figure 4, discloses the fastening shaft furthermore has an enlarged disk (81) disposed thereon. The enlarged disk has a diameter greater than the diameter of the shaft and disposed to render an accurate portion of the disk accessible through an opening in an end wall of the housing for manual rotation by an operator.

Regarding claim 11, it is noted that Rzczynski discloses the mating fastening unit is a mating, female threaded unit receiving the threaded end of the fastening shaft.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is (703) 306-5711. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (703) 308-3119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

TL.
July 28, 2002


BRIAN SIRCUS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800